

From: blue1suite
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 4:34pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I oppose the current Microsoft settlement.

Microsoft has a verticle monopoly in the software indusly. They control the operating system market. That control gives their application developers an advantage in time to market, in the use of special undocumented features, and in the ability to force installation by users. Because of their market dominance in the operating system, they are able to push application vendors out of niche markets.

They continue to pursue a strategy of pushing vendors out of the market through incorporation of functionality into their operating system. Consider the examples of internet messaging and multi-media presentation. In both cases, Microsoft bundles applications that have nothing to do with the operating system into the operating system distribution. This leverages Microsoft's monopoly of the operating system into other markets. If Microsoft is allowed to continue this practice then AOL instant messenger and Real Media will have a very tough time remaining in the market. Their problems will not be a result of the relative merits of their product, but rather a result of Microsoft's dominance of the operating system market.

If the operating system portion of Microsoft's business was operated as a separate company, the likely result would have been that Netscape, Real Media Player, and AOL Instant Messenger would have been licensed by the operating system developer for bundling in OEM distributions. Other competitors could have challenged the Netscape, Real Media, and AOL dominance by either developing a better product and marketing it to the operating system vendor, or developing an equivalent product and licensing it to Microsoft for less money. In this way, competitive markets would still exist and Microsoft would still be able to deliver a high level of functionality in a single bundle.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Ultis
7514 Charmant Drive, #916
San Diego, CA 92122
Registered Republican